



Queensland Private Enterprise Centre

# **2022 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS**

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Susan Rix, AM (President)  
Franki Ganter (Chair)  
Chris Skelton (Secretary)  
Emily Blauberg (Treasurer)  
Penny Ellenger  
Allan Pidgeon AM  
Jamie Forster  
Debbie Perrett  
Bob Kelsey

Dear Members

The Executive Committee is pleased to present this Annual Report for Queensland Private Enterprise Centre Inc (**QPEC**) for the financial year ending 31 December 2022.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

During the year the following changes occurred on the Executive Committee:

- Ms Emily Blauberg was elected to the committee at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2022. Prior to her election, the Executive Committee had appointed Emily to the committee to fill a casual vacancy created by the departure of Ms Jane Carol. Ms Blauberg's nomination for election was supported by the Executive Committee.
- Ms Blauberg was also elected as Treasurer at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2022. Being eligible for election, Ms Blauberg was nominated by the Executive Committee and offered herself for election as Treasurer.
- Mr Allan Pidgeon AM was re-elected to the committee at QPEC's Annual General Meeting held in June 2022, after having retired by rotation in accordance with Clause of 7.5 of QPEC's Constitution. Being eligible Mr Pidgeon was nominated by the Executive Committee and offered himself for re-election.

## **ECOMAN OPERATION REVIEW**

During the 2022 year, 15 programs were delivered including 4 schools from Bundaberg participating in a 3 day program.

The Brisbane Girls' Grammar School (BGGs) students again participated in the ECOMAN Program in 2022. It involved running 8 simultaneous programs at the school for approximately 170 students. The program ran over a number of weeks (one and/or two days per week) in July/August with the BGGs teachers involved in delivering parts of the program normally delivered by the facilitators. Fortunately there were no COVID-19 disruptions to the program and the students could participate in a face to face delivery of the program. The cost of the program remained at \$4000 and the BGGs has signed up to participate in the ECOMAN Program again in 2023. A huge thank you to Bob Kelsey for the work he did in processing the results for all the classes – which proved to be a challenging exercise.

The relationships that develop between QPEC and schools particularly between our Education Coordinator and facilitators and the school Heads of Department underlies the fact that many schools each year send their Year 10 and 11 students to experience the ECOMAN program year after year. These teachers do this because they see the practical benefits of the ECOMAN program in further explaining commercial and business concepts and realities to students.

The Executive Committee receives many testimonials from students, and their parents, after they have completed the program and it is pleasing for the committee to read these as they

underline the reason why the program is so successful and valued by the students and teachers.

## **SPONSORSHIP AND OTHER SUPPORT**

Funds from The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation continued in 2022 to support the delivery of Ecoman program to students. The Foundation has supported ECOMAN programs since 2009 and the Executive Committee thanks them for their valued support.

Mid-City Rotary Club again sponsored the Yeronga State High School program and the committee thanks them for their ongoing support.

Our venue sponsors provide their CBD board rooms and meeting rooms where the programs are delivered. They too deserve our thanks once again. Two venues provided their facilities on more than one occasion: CA ANZ and Grant Thornton, to whom we owe a special thanks. The other venues QPEC wish to thank are: CPA, Wilsons Advisory, Ultons (Bundaberg), 300 Adelaide Street and BDO.

These venues play an important part in the ECOMAN experience for the students, where for two or three days they become directors and make decisions that will impact on the business of their company. They also enjoy the 'vibe' of being part of a big city office.

Sponsors are critical to the on-going viability of the Ecoman programs. Currently programs in Brisbane cost a little over \$1,000 per day to run (on average) and overheads are about \$24,000 per year. Many schools find \$1300 per day (two day program) or \$1950 (three day program) too big an ask and adding further on top of that to cover overheads would mean we would have less schools to spread the overhead across. While QPEC has sufficient funds to continue operating in the short term, the Executive Committee, has been considering ways of ensuring the sustainability of the program. For more on this, see the section below on the 'Future of QPEC'.

## **PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2022**

Dates	School	Venue
27 – 29 April	Ferny Grove State High School	CA ANZ
13 – 15 June	Indooroopilly State High School	CPA and Grant Thornton
13 – 15 July	Bundaberg Schools	Ultons
18 and 19 July	Mansfield State High School	300 Adelaide Street
21 & 22 July	Brisbane Grammar Schools	Wilsons Advisory
July/August	Brisbane Girls' Grammar School	In House
26 and 27 July	Browns Plains SHS	Grant Thornton
1 and 2 August	The Gap SHS	CA ANZ
9, 11 and 12 August	Citipointe Christian College	Grant Thornton
12 and 13 September	Rosedale State High School	CA ANZ
August	BGGS in house	BGGS
4 – 6 October	Yeronga State High School	CA ANZ
27 and 28 October	4 schools program	BDO
3 and 4 November	St Peters Lutheran College Indooroopilly	In House
21 and 22 November	Northside Christian College	In house
23 and 24 November	Ormiston College	300 Adelaide Street

## FUTURE OF QPEC

Funding from The Sylvia and Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation is about to come to an end, with the final instalment of funding from the Foundation due in the 2023 financial year. The Executive Committee, once again, thanks the Foundation for their valued support.

In recognition that the funding support from the Foundation would come to a natural end, over the last 18 months the Executive Committee has undertaken a series of strategic planning workshops with the aim of developing a strategy that seeks to ensure the long term sustainability of QPEC. In summary, the key outcomes of these processes include the following:

- The journey to sustainability will need to be initially focused on growing the presence of QPEC in the schools sector in which it currently operates. There are significant opportunities to expand the Ecoman program offering to schools in Brisbane and in broader regional areas in Queensland.
- QPEC must expand its funding base through the investigation of the following
  - Corporate sponsorships
  - Grant funding
  - Increased fee for service for delivery of the Ecoman program.
- There is an opportunity to expand our service offering interstate, however we believe this is a three to five year initiative after our expansion in Queensland.
- QPEC's growth program cannot be properly implemented with only the work of a volunteer board.
- To achieve our expansion in Queensland and expand our funding base, we believe we need to employ a resource to act as a part-time Executive Director.
- Updated vision and mission statements for QPEC, which are set out below:

### **Vision Statement**

*QPEC runs an innovative and high-quality education program aimed at providing participants with an understanding of and insight into Australia's free market economy. We partner with trusted institutions to make the program available to communities regardless of location or socio-economic profile.*

### **Mission Statement**

*Contribute to Australia's prosperity by promoting an understanding of the virtues of free-market economy and private enterprise through education, innovative research and engagement with the community.*

The Executive Committee looks forward to updating members on implementation of the strategy outcomes in due course and would welcome any feedback on those outcomes or offers of support.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Committee's thanks and appreciation go to Education Coordinator Debbie Perrett and facilitators Amanda Barnes, Kaylene Holley and Peter Hondroudakis and observers Doneene King and Debbi Pidgeon. This team delivers the programs and interacts with students to impart important messages about the commercial realities of running a business and the role of private enterprise. They are the face of ECOMAN.

**For and on behalf of the QPEC Executive Committee**



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Franki Ganter  
Chairman